

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:TGMARTIN:BAS

APPROVED BY P - AMBASSADOR PORTER

EUR/IB - MR. RABENOLD

S/S - MR. GAMMON

EUR - MR. STABLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 209089

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO

SUBJECT: AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. FIRST NEGOTIATING SESSION BETWEEN UNDER-SECRETARY PORTER AND AMBASSADOR THEMIDO HELD OCT. 18. SECOND SESSION SCHEDULED TO BE IN APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS.

2. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO SAID THAT LISBON WOULD PREFER NOT TO RENEW THE BASE AGREEMENT, BUT RENEWAL WAS POSSIBLE WITH COMPENSATION. HE HAD NO SPECIFICS AT THIS MEETING, BUT ADDED THAT WHETHER COMPENSATION POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL (EDUCATION), IT MUST BE ADEQUATE. HE SUGGESTED THAT U.S. PRESENT ITS PROPOSALS A EX ETI G, BUT PORTER SAID THAT WE NEEDED SOME IDEA OF WHAT PORTUGUESE HAVE IN MIND IF WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND. IT WAS AGREED THAT THEMIDO WOULD SEEK LISBON'S VIEWS ON GENERAL DESIRES REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR RENEWAL. AMBASSADOR PORTER SAID WE WERE SEEKING A SIMPLE RENEWAL OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT. THE BASE WAS CLEARLY IMPORTANT TO WESTERN DEFENSE OVER THE LONG RUN, AND IN SUCH IMMEDIATE CRISES AS THE PRESENT ONE.

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3. LARGE PART OF MEETING CONCERNED U.S.-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO CLEARLY FELT THERE WAS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE SHOWED SPECIAL CONCERN WITH ANTI-PORTUGUESE ATTITUDES IN THE U.S. CONGRESS AND WENT ON AT

LENGTH REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S ROLE, AS HE SAW IT, OF EDUCATING THE CONGRESS AS TO THE TRUTHS OF PORTUGUESE POLICIES IN AFRICA. THEMIDO HAD HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH SENATOR HUMPHREY EARLIER IN WEEK AND SAID HE SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN KILLING TUNNEY AMENDMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD HUMPHREY IT WOULD DO NO GOOD TO SOFTEN AMENDMENT, IT MUST BE DROPPED ENTIRELY, AS AMERICAN CHARGE IN LISBON HAD PROMISED. AMBASSADOR PORTER ASSURED HIM THAT WE WERE ACTIVELY WORKING ON THE MATTER.

4. THEMIDO READILY AGREED TO THE INFORMAL NEGOTIATING FORMAT PROPOSED BY US. HE PERSONALLY AGREED WITH SUGGESTION THAT NEGOTIATIONS RECEIVE NO PUBLICITY, BUT WOULD WANT TO CHECK WITH LISBON ON THAT POINT.

5. DETAILED MEMCON FOLLOWS. KISSINGER

SECRET

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